Garrison Calls Oswald 'Decoy'

NEW YORK (AP)—New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison contends the real assassins of President John F. Kennedy set Lee Harvey Oswald up as a decoy, hoping he would be shot down by Dallas police.

Garrison explained his theory Tuesday night during an interview with Mike Wallace in the third of a series of telecasts on the Warren Report by the Columbia Broadcasting System.

THE DISTRICT attorney has charged previously that five anti-Castro Cuban guerrillas killed the President. In the interview he said the conspirators plotted the death of Patrolman J. D. Tippit "to get rid of the decoy in the case, Lee Oswald."

Garrison said the conspirators "had what I think is a rather clever plan" to get rid of Oswald "so that he would not later describe the people involved in this."

"It's well known that police officers react violently to the murder of a police officer," he said. "All they did was arrange for an officer to be sent out to Tenth Street, and when Officer Tippit arrived there he was murdered, with no other reason than that."

"AFTER HE was murdered," Garrison continued, "Oswald was pointed to, sitting in the back of the Texas Theater where he'd been told to wait, obviously." He said the apparent plan was that the police would come and avenge the death of a fellow officer.

"But the Dallas police, apparently, at least the arresting officers, had more humanity in them than the planners had in mind. And this is the first point at which the plan did not work completely," Garrison said.

"So Oswald was not killed there. He was arrested. This left a problem, because if Lee Oswald stayed alive long enough obviously he would name names and talk about this thing that he'd been drawn into. It was necessary to kill him."